

REMARKS

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Final Office Action mailed November 16, 2006. Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application. In view of the amendments above and the remarks to follow, reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Drawing Objection

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims, in that the illumination system utilized in a vehicle headlamp is not shown. Applicants respectfully submit that the feature of the invention specified in Claim 14 is an illumination system of the kind set forth in new Fig. 6. Applicants request reconsideration of this objection in view of the addition of a perspective view of an embodiment of the illumination system as set forth in new FIG. 6, new paragraph [0034.2] and amended paragraph [0035] of the Substitute Specification submitted with this Amendment. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the drawings objection and approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

Specification Objection

In the Office Action, the specification was objected to for failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Specifically, there is no support for the newly added language “unrestricted by a boundary surface” in Claim 1. The

newly added language has been deleted in Claim 1 as amended herein. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the specification objection.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-7 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,176,124 – Cibie.

Applicants appreciate the courtesy granted to Applicant's attorney, Michael A. Scaturro (Reg. No. 51,356), during a telephonic interview conducted on December 22, 2006. During the telephonic interview, the rejection of Claim 1 in the instant Office Action was discussed. Applicant's attorney presented a proposed amendment to Claim 1 that makes it patentably distinguishable over the cited reference, Cibie. Specifically, as discussed during the interview, Applicant's attorney amended Claim 1 in a manner which addresses each issue raised by the Examiner on page 6 of the instant Office Action. The Examiner and his Supervisor, were satisfied that the proposed amendment, including a minor word change suggested by the Examiner's Supervisor, would overcome the cited reference

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that at least the limitations and/or features of Claim 1, as amended, is not anticipated by the disclosure of Cibie.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) with respect to Claim 1 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-7 depend from independent Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1 and is believed to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1 above. Likewise, amended Claim 14 incorporates patentable features of Claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and allowance of Claims 2-7 and 14 is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cibie in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,406,172 to Harbers et al. (hereinafter Harbers).

Claims 8 and 9 depend from Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claims 8 and 9 are believed to be allowable over the Cibie in view of Harbers.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to Claims 8 and 9 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, Claims 10 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cibie in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,283,623 to Chinniah et al. (hereinafter Chinniah).

Claims 10 and 11 depend from Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claims 10 and 11 are believed to be allowable over the Cibie in view of Chinniah.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to Claims 10 and 14 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, Claims 12 and 13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Cibie in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,694,382 to Sales.

Claims 12 and 13 depend from Claim 1 and therefore contain the limitations of Claim 1. Hence, for at least the same reasons given for Claim 1, Claims 12 and 13 are believed to be allowable over the Cibie in view of Sales.

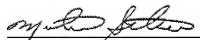
Accordingly, applicant respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to Claims 12 and 13 and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-14 are believed to be in condition for allowance and patentably distinguishable over the art of record.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call Frank Keegan, Esq., Intellectual Property Counsel, Philips Electronics North America, at 914-333-9669.

Respectfully submitted,



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